Nanette S. Edwards, Executive Director



CHRISTOPHER M. HUBER Deputy General Counsel for ORS

Office of Regulatory Staff 1401 Main Street Suite 900 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 737-0800 ORS.SC.GOV

June 3, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Application of Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, Incorporated for an Adjustment

of Rates and Charges **Docket No. 2021-153-S**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Please allow this letter to serve as the response of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") to the Proposed Customer Bill Insert Timeline ("Timeline") filed by the Clerk's Office of the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") on June 1, 2021. The Timeline is based on the Application for an Adjustment of Rates and Charges of Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation, Inc. ("PWR") being filed by June 4, 2021. PWR has indicated it will not be filing the Application by June 4th but rather intends to file by June 16th. ORS respectfully requests that the Commission not finalize a procedural schedule until the filing date for the Application is known so as to not shorten the review and audit period for ORS and intervenors between the Application filing date and the evidentiary merits hearing on the Application.

Additionally, ORS requests that the timeframe between Applicant Direct Testimony and Other Parties of Record Direct Testimony be increased from the two weeks in the Timeline to a minimum of four weeks. ORS requests this be accomplished through a means other than shortening the rebuttal and surrebuttal timeframes. With respect to the Virtual Public Hearings for Customers indicated on the Timeline, ORS recommends at least one hearing or a portion of one hearing be in person. ORS also supports the evidentiary merits hearing in this matter being in person with parties having the option to request that certain witnesses be allowed to appear virtually. Finally, ORS has one potential witness who has a conflict with the possible October 25th hearing date indicated on the Timeline.

Letter – Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Page 2 of 2 June 3, 2021

ORS agrees with PWR's proposal in its response to the Timeline that PWR, ORS, and the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs be allowed an opportunity until June 11, 2021, to submit a proposed procedural schedule to which all three parties consent. ORS traditionally has sought to reach agreement on proposed procedural schedules with utilities in past rate proceedings. If the parties are unable to agree on a schedule, ORS recommends the parties be allowed until June 11th to submit separate proposed schedules for the Commission's consideration.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter and for the opportunity to respond to the Timeline.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Huber

Chri Hulou

cc: All Parties of Record (via e-mail)
David Butler, Esquire (via e-mail)